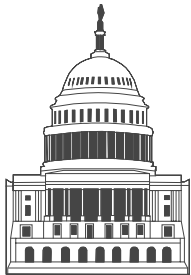


**SENATE
REPUBLICAN
CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN**



**CAPITOL OFFICE
ROOM 5087
(916) 445-9600**

**FRESNO OFFICE
(559) 253-7122**

**Group Home
Resource Available**

JANUARY 23, 2003

Senator Charles S. Poochigian



Capitol Update

RESOURCE GUIDE AVAILABLE ON GROUP HOMES

Last year I asked the California Research Bureau (CRB) to prepare a study on the public policy issues surrounding the placement of group homes and other residential care facilities in residential neighborhoods. I was especially interested in the rights of neighbors and local government when this occurs.

The Research Bureau has completed its report entitled *Residential Care Facilities in the Neighborhood*. I think you will find it informative and useful in both considering policy and responding to constituent questions and concerns about the location of neighborhood residential care facilities. This report can be accessed at:

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/18/02-018.pdf>
requires [Adobe Reader](#)

As you are aware, land use decisions are primarily a local government responsibility. However, federal and state housing and anti-discrimination laws provide protection for residential care facilities in neighborhoods so individuals with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities can live and participate in the community instead of being in institutional settings.

This report describes the range of residential care facilities and residents. It also identifies the relevant federal, state, and local laws, and their impact on local government land use decisions regarding facilities. It provides the historical and current perspective on the issue of balancing the rights of neighbors to preserve the integrity of their neighborhoods with the rights of individuals with special needs. I hope you find this information helpful.